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Section 4

Uintah Basin Plan

Utah State Water Plan

Demographics and Economic Future

The basin's demographics are contrasted by small farming communities nestled around larger communities such as Duchesne, Roosevelt, Vernal and Manila.

4.1 Introduction

This section discusses the population, employment and economic future of the Uintah Basin. The basin has been plagued with boom and bust -- first the oil boom and then the anticipated oil shale boom. Oil is still being produced but at a much reduced production level, and oil shale mining is not currently being pursued by any major company.

4.2 Demographics¹⁶¹

The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation comprises a large land area in the basin. Due to the Homestead Act of 1905, many farms and communities were established by non-Indians within the reservations.

Basin population for 1998 was 39,596. By 2020 the total is projected to be 54,706, an increase of 15,855 people or 29 percent. The annual rate of growth in population is expected to be 1.3 percent. This compares to the statewide average of 2.2 percent.

The employment pattern will probably remain about the same, with non-farm proprietors, services and trade gaining at a more rapid rate while agriculture declines. Construction is expected to triple employment. Overall employment is expected to increase by about 10,200 jobs by the year 2020, which is about an average annual growth rate of growth of about 1.7 percent, compared to the state average of 3.3 percent.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) prepared the projected population and employment estimates used in this plan. These estimates were then used as a basis for estimating the

future culinary water supply requirements shown in Section 11 - Drinking Water. The 1990 census is the basis for all population estimates. The basin population is considered to comprise all of Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah counties. The major population centers are in Duchesne, Uintah and Daggett counties.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has developed the procedures and criteria for making population projections. The Utah Process Economic and Demographic (UPED) model is part of this. Local planners in the Association of Governments (AOG) office prepared the population estimates for GOPB review. The projection model takes into account many variables regarding the demographics and industrial mix of an area. This model incorporates historical employment growth rates into the future growth patterns. Assumptions regarding labor force participation rates, non-employment related migration rates, and constant age-specific fertility and survival rates are also incorporated.

Duchesne³⁸ and Roosevelt contain 44 percent of the total Duchesne County population. Vernal comprises 30 percent of Uintah County's population, and Manila comprises 33 percent of Daggett County's population. Vernal is the largest city in the basin.

Between 1990 and 1994, Duchesne City, in Duchesne County, had the fastest growth of any city in the basin at 24 percent. The fastest growing community in Uintah County was Naples at 14 percent. Manila, in Daggett County, grew 15 percent during this time period, and unincorporated portions of the basin gained 7 percent for the same period.

Community populations and long-range projections are shown in Tables 4-1 and 4-2. The initial methodology used to allocate the city populations within a county involved a simple average of the 1990 Census city share as a percentage of the county and an average 10-year growth rate. Figure 4-1 presents the information in graphic form.

4.3 Employment

Total employment in Daggett County⁶⁷ is expected to increase 77 percent between 1995 and 2020; that is an increase from 493 to 875 jobs. Thirty-three people are currently employed in agriculture, and a slight decrease is expected. Construction jobs will multiply from 2 to about 60. Manufacturing will reduce jobs from 12 to 3. Transportation, communication and public utility jobs (TCPU) will increase from 30 to 60, and trade will increase from 18 to 79 jobs. Service employment will nearly triple from 80 to 217. Government jobs are expected to increase from 191 to 325.

Duchesne County can be expected to lose about 100 agricultural jobs, down to 800 in 2020. Mining will lose employment from 475 to 153 during the projected period. Employment in construction, manufacturing and TCPU will more than double, reaching 422, 327 and 807, respectively, by 2020. Trade employment will grow from 920 to 1,632, while finance, insurance and real estate (FIRE) will increase from 105 to 175. Government and non-farm proprietors employment will gradually increase throughout the projection period.

In Uintah County, agricultural employment is expected to lose 82 jobs, ending in 2020 at 675. Mining is expected to lose about 337 jobs by 2020, and construction employment will increase from 263 to 613. Manufacturing jobs will also increase by 166. Employment in transportation, communication and public utilities (TCPU) is expected to increase by about 300 jobs by 2020, going from 648 to 946. Trade jobs will increase from 1,892 to 3,297. Service jobs are expected to increase from 1,729 to 3,701. Government employment will increase 38 percent, from 1,736 in 1995 to 2,404 in 2020. Total employment is expected to rise from 10,747 to

17,192 by 2020. Table 4-3 and Figure 4-2 show employment projections.

At 7.9 percent, the unemployment rate for this basin is higher than any other region of the state. Duchesne County has the second highest unemployment rate of any county in the state with 9.3 percent in 1995.

4.4 Economic Future

The long-term outlook for the economy of the basin is positive. New businesses are developing in the basin. Manila should continue to grow, due to the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. The rest of the basin is also experiencing growth. Migration of people from the basin to the Wasatch Front will likely occur, but this migration will be countered by people who work in the metropolitan areas (through telecommunication) but choose the more rural counties as places to locate their families. Also, people are moving back from the Wasatch Front and retiring in the basin. Summer homes and cabins are being built in the Tabby Mountain area and between Starvation and Strawberry reservoirs. A new phosphate plant on Taylor Mountain is also being planned. □

Table 4-1 Population Projections Uintah Basin			
County	1990	1998	2020
Daggett			
Manila Town	207	256	382
Balance of Daggett County	483	577	862
County Total	690	833	1,244
Duchesne			
Tabiona Town	120	137	181
Roosevelt City	3,915	4,292	5,683
Myton City	468	519	687
Duchesne City	1,308	1,447	1,916
Altamont Town	167	192	254
Balance of Duchesne County	6,667	7,683	10,174
County Total	12,645	14,270	18,895
Uintah			
Vernal City	6,640	7,111	10,036
Naples	1,334	1,466	2,069
Ballard Town	644	735	1,037
Balance of Uintah County	13,593	15,181	21,425
County Total	22,211	24,493	34,567
Basin Total	35,546	39,596	54,706

Table 4-2 Long-Range County Projections				
County	1990	1998	2020	2050
Daggett	690	833	1,244	2,183
Duchesne	12,645	14,270	18,895	28,426
Uintah	22,211	24,182	34,567	56,411
Basin Total	35,546	39,285	54,706	87,020

Figure 4-1
Population Projections

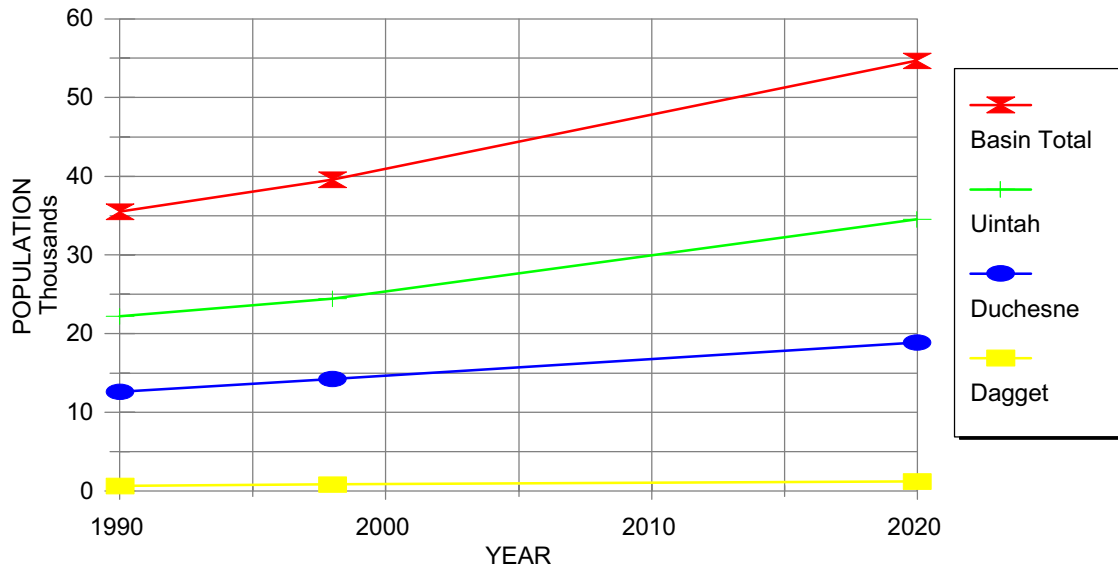
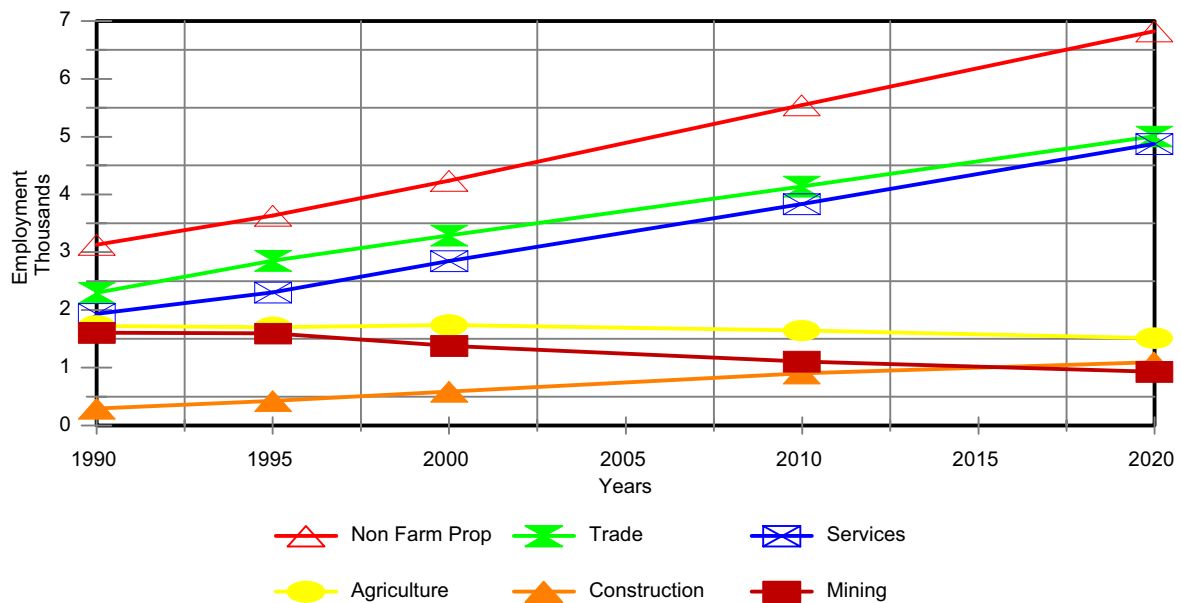


Figure 4-2
Employment Projections



**Table 4-3
Employment Projections
Uintah Basin**

County	1990	1995	2000	2010	2020
Daggett					
Agriculture	33	33	34	32	29
Mining	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	2	18	28	50	62
Manufacturing	12	2	2	3	3
TCPU	30	41	45	53	60
Trade	18	42	50	64	79
FIRE	0	1	1	1	2
Services	80	97	123	167	217
Government	191	209	223	272	325
Non-Farm Proprietors	64	50	60	78	98
County Total	430	493	566	720	875
Duchesne					
Agriculture	924	910	931	881	811
Mining	448	475	384	241	153
Construction	102	153	216	349	422
Manufacturing	138	250	263	290	327
TCPU	397	435	514	659	807
Trade	796	920	1,074	1,351	1,632
FIRE	136	105	120	147	175
Services	466	480	579	766	956
Government	1,214	1,512	1,529	1,759	2,116
Non-Farm Proprietors	1,138	1,343	1,586	2,082	2,559
County Total	5,759	6,583	7,196	8,525	9,958
Uintah					
Agriculture	769	757	775	733	675
Mining	1,161	1,118	995	869	781
Construction	197	263	343	507	613
Manufacturing	195	245	291	342	411
TCPU	598	648	604	769	946
Trade	1,486	1,892	2,174	2,726	3,297
FIRE	110	119	134	162	193
Services	1,387	1,729	2,147	2,906	3,701
Government	1,623	1,736	1,731	2,020	2,404
Non-Farm Proprietors	1,927	2,240	2,596	3,390	4,171
County Total	9,453	10,747	11,790	14,424	17,192
Basin Total	15,642	17,823	19,552	23,669	28,025

¹Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, State of Utah, Economic and Demographic Projections, 1997.